

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Pous on 03/28/06.
3. During the interview, applicant agreed to amend claims 10, 11, 28, 29 and 38 to correct minor informalities without changing the scope of the invention. The application has been amended as follows:
 - Claim 10, the last line, "the actual" has been changed to --an actual--.
 - Claim 11, the last line, --actual-- has been inserted before "minimal".
 - Claim 28, the second to last line, "the actual" has been changed to --an actual--.
 - Claim 29, the last line, --actual-- has been inserted before "minimal".
 - Claim 39, the last line, "the actual" has been changed to --an actual--.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Examiner agrees with Applicant's arguments regarding claims 10 and 28. The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for a shift control apparatus/method of an automatic transmission of a motor vehicle in which a coast downshift is carried out during coasting as defined by the limitations of claims 10, 28 and 38; wherein the coast downshift is carried out while the vehicle is kept in a predetermined minimal driving state in which an engine speed is